CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT

Conditions necessary for lessening tension between Greece and Albania or Italy following the incident; quotes YA of Aug. 15 stating -.

768.75/58

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See #531
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Aug. 22 1940 From/To Spain (Bucknell)

File No. 852.9111/52

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

bb

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FMH

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Istanbul

Dated June 10, 1943

FROM

Rec'd 1:52 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington.

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS MR. BUNN JUN 16 1943 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

190R53, June 10, 9 a.m.

767.75 21 Retransmitted to 768.75

My 184R51, June 4th, 9 a.m.

Official Greek sources confirm opinion given in my telegram under reference they have received through travelers reaching Turkey frequent desperate appeals from Greeks in northern Epirus and Tsamouria for protection against bands of Albanian irregulars who without patriotic motive and apparently intent not only upon banditry but also on extermination of Greek population have been carrying out repeated raids in those provinces.

DIV. OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION JUN 14 1943 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LIAISON OFFICE JUN 19 1943 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BERRY

EMC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF

FILED JUL 14 1943

768.75/59

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate General, Istanbul.

TO: Secretary of State, Washington.

DATE: June 10, 1943, 9 a.m.

NO.: 190R53

CONFIDENTIAL

The opinion given by me in my telegram 184R51 of June 4, 1943 has been given confirmation by official Greek sources. Through travellers reaching Turkey they have received from Greeks in Tsamouria and Northern Epirus frequent appeals for protection against bands of Albanian irregulars who have been carrying out repeated raids in these provinces. These irregulars, without motives of patriotism, apparently are not only given to banditry but are also intent upon the extermination of the Greek population.

BERRY

FC:EVP:ECK 6-14-43

~~EEPA~~
PHA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

June ~~22,~~ 1943.

PA/M
~~Ed~~
~~PA/D~~
PS

Absent

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUL 21 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The attached note from the Greek Embassy, dated June 22, 1943, (File no. 768.75/60), transmitting further documents in support of Greece's post-war claim to Northern Epirus, was handed to me today by the Greek Ambassador.

I told the Ambassador that I received this communication solely for the information of the Department.

NE:FDKohler:GC

FDK

ARMED SERVICES MAP SECTION
JUN 23 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. MURRAY
JUN 23 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AE
PA/H
EC

ROYAL GREEK EMBASSY

Washington
June 22, 1943

DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUL 9 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 24 1943
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Royal Greek Embassy has the honor to transmit to the State Department :

a) A translation in English of the Protocol signed at Corfou on May 17, 1914 between the International Commission of Control in Albania and the delegates of Epirus on the special status concerning the territories of Argyrokastro and Korytza (Northern Epirus);

b) A copy of the note addressed to the Greek Government by the representatives of the six Great Powers in Athens on July 1, 1914, notifying them of the approval of the said Protocol by their Governments.

768.75/60

768.75

FILED
JUL 10 1943
PS/ATB

The Royal Greek Embassy will highly appreciate it if the State Department will kindly attach this note to the confidential memorandum handed to the United States Government by His Excellency, Mr. Emmanuel Tsouderos, Prime Minister of Greece, on June 12, 1942.

nc

Copies VM

Enclosures

DISPOSITIONS CONCERNING THE TERRITORIES OF ARGYROKASTRO AND KORYTSA WHICH HAVE BEEN EVACUATED BY THE HELLENIC TROOPS

The International Commission of Control, in order to avoid the resumption of hostilities has thought it should approach to the greatest degree possible the point of view of the Epirote populations concerning the special dispositions which they are claiming, and the point of view of the Albanian government. It is in accordance with this order of ideas that it has consented to submit to the Powers, which it represents, and also to the Albanian government, the herein enclosed text, which is the result of discussions between the members of this Commission and the Epirote delegates.

Corfou, May 17, 1914

Signed

Winchel, A. Leoni, Malik Frasheri

Harry H. Lamb, Leon Krajewski

A. Tetriaew

We make the same respervations as concerns the approbation of our mandators.

Signed

Christaki - Zographos

Al. C. Carapanos

I. Organization

The execution and maintenance of dispositions taken for the organization of the two southern provinces are entrusted at the present to the International Commission of Control. It organizes the administration, justice and the finances. The Albanian government, in agreement with the I.C.C. will nominate and revoke the governors and high officials, taking into account, as far as possible the numerical importance of the adepts of each religious profession.

II. Local Councils

The number of members elected in the administrational councils shall be at the least triple of that of members by right.

III. Delimitation and administrational subdivision

The International Commission of Control in the same manner shall watch over the delimitation and the administrational subdivision of the two provinces, which, when once made will not be modifiable without the agreement of the Powers.

IV. Territory

All dispositions in question apply to the populations of the territories previously occupied by Greece and annexed to Albania.

V. Police Force

For the maintenance of order in the southern provinces a local police will be formed, by officers, non-commissioned officers and constables composed of elements of the various (religious) creeds in proportion to the number of adepts existing in these provinces. This police force will not be able to serve outside the limits of these provinces, but for a determined period and this in case of vis major recognized by the I.C.C. The same restrictions is applied to the employment in these southern provinces. It is recommended to the officers in command of the police force to employ in the various localities solely detachments

formed of men of the same creed as the inhabitants of these localities.

In the case of insufficient numbers of the local element for the proportional composition of the police force, there will be recourse to men originating from other provinces of Albania. In conformance to the principles set forth above, the Dutch officers will proceed immediately to the operations of enrollment. It should be well understood that the preceding dispositions do not prejudice the unity of the Albanian police, such as it has been envisaged by the London Conference.

VI. Armed Forces

Except for cases of war or of revolution in the southern provinces, it shall not be possible to transfer or employ in these provinces non-native military units.

VII. Orthodox Communities

The Christian Orthodox communities are recognized as legal entities in the same manner as the other communities. They preserve their property and enjoy the free disposal of it. The relations of Orthodox communities with their spiritual leaders will be the same as for the past. No attempt will be made against the secular rights and the hierarchical organization of the communities mentioned except through an agreement between the Albanian Government and the Oecumenical Partriarcate of Constantinople.

VIII. Schools

Teaching is free. In the schools of Orthodox communities, teaching is carried out in Greek. In the three elementary classes, Albanian will be taught concurrently with Greek. In any case, religious teaching will be made exclusively in Greek.

IX. Freedom of Language

In virtue of the principle set by the Note of the Powers to Greece, dated of 11/24 April 1914, the use of Albanian and of Greek shall be assured in the provinces of the south before all authorities, courts included, and

also in elective councils.

X. Occupation

The I.C.C., in the name of the Albanian government, will take possession of the territory in question by betaking itself there.

The officers of the Netherlands mission will proceed immediately to the formation of the local police force. Provisionally and till the formation of the local police, the Dutch officers, with the cooperation of the local element, will take charge of public security.

The I.C.C. shall also proceed to the constitution of mixed Commissions composed of Christians and Moslems, in the proportion of the numerical importance of these elements. Provisionally, and till the organization of the local authorities, these Commissions shall assume the administrative functions under the efficient supervision of the I.C.C., which will determine their extent. Even before the arrival of the Dutch officers, the necessary measures will be taken by the Provisional government of Argyrocastro to remove from the country all foreign elements in arms. These dispositions will receive their application both in the part of the province of Korytza, which is at the present occupied militarily by Albania, and in the other southern regions.

XI. Relief

The Albanian Government, in accord with the I.C.C. shall take the necessary measures to come to the aid of the populations which have been tried by the events of these last two years.

XII. Amnesty

To the Epirotes a full and complete amnesty is granted for all acts prior to the occupation of these provinces by the representatives of the Albanian Government. Non-natives of Epirus can be prosecuted for the above mentioned period solely for crimes of common law.

XIII. Guarantee

The Powers, which, by the London conference, have guaranteed the institution of Albania and have established the I.C.C., pledge themselves for the execution and the maintenance of the above mentioned dispositions.

Dispositions concerning Chimarra. After having heard the captain of Chimarra, in accord with Epirote delegates, and having taken cognizance of their demands both on the maintenance of the ancient privileges, and on the new proposals made in the interest itself of the region of Chimarra and of the general appeasement, demands, whose text is annexed, the International Commission of Control will submit them, with the rest of the dispositions concerning Epirus, for the examination and the approbation of the Great Powers and of the Albanian Government.

Included in the preceding dispositions maintenance of the ancient privileges, which the Chimarriotes enjoyed under the Ottoman regime. For the duration of ten years, the Governor shall be a foreigner. The Dutch officer commanding the police force at Chimarra could perform the functions of the Governor. This measure is demanded for reasons of general interest, because only an alien would be able to impose himself upon these populations, whose customs and character are too independent, for them to submit easily to the authority of law.

The captain of Chimarra also expresses the hope that the title of Archegos of Chimarra (chief or captain) will be reserved for the governor.

The district of Chimarra will comprize the following eighteen localities: Christian villages: Paliassa, Drymades, Vonno, Chimarra, Piliouri, Koudessi, Kyparo, Tschorai, Pikerni, Loukovo, Aghios Vasilios, Koundetsovo, Nivitsa.

Moslem villages: Ftera, Borsi, Sassai, Tatzati, Kaliassu.

This request is founded on historical considerations on common tradition, on the fact that the thirteen Christian villages, during the last Greco-Turkish war, have expelled the Ottoman garrison, proclaimed and maintained their union with Greece with their own forces, even before the fall of Jannina, consequently without the intervention and before the arrival of the Greek army. Since then under Greek domination, the captainship (capitaurearie) of Chimarra was formed by these eighteen villages and it governed itself in full independence. Furthermore the participation of Moslem elements would remove from the organization of Chimarra any tendencious character and would constitute a guarantee for the Albanian government.

No other locality would be able in any case to form part of the district of Chimarra. The global tax payed by Chimarra in lieu and in place of all other taxes, such as it has been fixed, in 1910, by the Ottoman government, for the eight villages composing at that time the district of Chimarra, will be increased in proportion to the number of inhabitants of the villages added. In virtue of their ancient privileges, the Chimarriotes, even during the old regime, took part in the wars of the Empire and had their own banner. The use of a special banner, which would float at the side of the Albanian flag must be assured for them. It will not be possible for the Chimarriote police corps to be employed in any case, outside the limits of the two provinces of Argyrocastro and Korytsa. Concerning administration the district of Chimarra should be the seat of a tribunal and that the justices of peace- who must be chosen among the Christian Orthodox Epirotes - should have an extensive competence especially in what concerns penal juristiction, in order that, by a severe application of the law, carried out so to say on the spot, one might be able to conquer certain regrettable habits and

thus avoid for this population, which is so proud of its glorious past, a transport to other localities, which is moreover difficult under the condition of communications, in the case of accusation for a crime or a misdemeanor.

PROTOCOL SIGNED AT FLORENCE THE 17th DECEMBER 1913 BY THE COMMISSION OF DELIMITATION OF THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF ALBANIA

Description of the frontier line. The frontier begins at point C (on the Austrian map slope 1738, northeast of Mandra-Nicolica) where the south frontier of the Kaza of Korytsa joins the crest of Grammos. It directs itself towards the south following the crest of Grammos up to Mavri Petra, it then passes by the slopes 2536 and 2019 and rejoins Golo. From there, after having followed the watershed up to the slope 1740, it passes between the villages Radati and Kursaca, it directs itself to the hill which is found at the northeast of Kukesi, whence it descends reaching the Sarandaporos.

It follows the bed of that river up to its mouth in the Vojussa whence it rejoins the summit of Mount Tumba passing between the villages of Zipalica and Messaria and from the slopes 956 and 2,000.

From the summit of Mount Tumba the frontier directs itself towards the west on the slope 1621 passing north of Zrimazes.

It afterwards follows the watershed up to the elevation which is at the northeast of the village Episcopi according to the indications of the annexed map. From there it directs itself towards the south keeping to the crest between Radati which remains to Albania and Gaidohor which remains to Greece, it descends into the valley of Zrinos, and crossing the river it ascends on the hill of Kakavia, a village which remains to Albania. It follows again the division of waters, leaving Valtista to Greece and Kossovica to Albania, and rejoins Murgana, slope 2124.

From there it joins Stugara and through Vertrop and slope 750 leaving Janiari and Verva to Albania, it passes from the slopes 1014, 675, 839 it directs itself towards the northwest leaving Konispoli to Albania, it follows the crests of the hills Stilo, Orba, and before arriving to the slope 254 it turns towards the south and joins the Bay of Phtelia.

NOTE OF THE GREAT POWERS TO THE HELLENIC GOVERNMENT

The undersigned have the honour to notify to his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the governments of Germany, Austro-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia have approved the agreement reached at Corfou between the International Commission of Control and the Epirote delegates concerning the future status of Epirius.

Athens, June 18/ July 1, 1914.

Signed

A. Quadi, Szilassy, Deville

William Erskine, Bosdari

Prince Ouroussow

NE
PA/H

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 21 1943
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FMH
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

FROM Istanbul Dated July 17, 1943
Rec'd 7:30 p.m.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUL 19 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State,

Washington.

247, July 17, 6 p.m.

Reference my 159 190R53 of June 10, 1943, 10 a.m.

Further information from official Greek sources in Istanbul of activities of Albanians in northern Epirus.

768.75

Principal activities by Moslem Albanians without patriotic purpose on basis of religious differences have occurred in province of Thesprotia a part of Tsamouria. Since occupation of Greece Greek frontier and forest authorities have been powerless to control this minority which made constant raids on the inhabitants. Moslems are aided and abetted by Italians. Principal acts of barbarism have been in Goumenitsa, the chief town of Thesprotia, and in the village of Grecohori. An 80 year old acting prefect and his 70 year old wife are among those Greeks who have been killed. Many others have been plundered.

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JUL 23 1943

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DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

file Pill Teleg. to Istanbul NE: ADK/GC 5/25/43

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~~AKH~~ EU

MEMORANDUM

PS

The Greek Ambassador in compliance with instructions from his Government has the honor to communicate the following to communicate the following to His Excellency, the Secretary of State.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
SEP 15 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Greek Government is much concerned over the situation in Albania.

1. Definite information indicates that the so-called Albanian patriots are waging a campaign of terrorism against the Greek population of Northern Epirus. Pressure in various forms is exerted in order to compel the Greeks to renounce their national sentiments. Thus in the village of Georgoutsades houses were burned down because the inhabitants refused to sign such declarations. Many instances of robbery were noted and leading citizens were abducted.

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2. The Greek Government deem it their duty to bring to the attention of the United States Government, as one of the Allies, the above facts, which have aroused the indignation of the Greek people and could provoke bloodshed between Albanian terrorists and Greek guerillas along the boundary.

3. These acts of violence of the Albanian partisans, in reality carry out policies of the Government at Tirana intended to jeopardize the status of the Greek communities of Northern Epirus, as witness the appointment to the Bishopric of Beret Vissarion Giovanni, notorious for anti-Greek activities.

RB DIVISION OF ECONOMIC STUDIES
OCT 1 - 1943
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
POLITICAL STUDIES
SEP
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OCT 1 1943
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4. It is beyond doubt that these oppressive measures are aided by the Italians who, on the eve of their defeat, are trying to revive racial hatreds in the Balkan Peninsula and to flatter Albanian chauvinism, stirred by the declarations which the Allies thought fit to make concerning Albanian independence. In a statement of February 18, the Albanian Premier announced the formation of armed bands, to be used most likely, as was done in the past, to alter the national complexion of Northern Epirus, whose status is to be determined after the war .

5. The Greek Government hope that the United States Government will, as an ally, take under earnest consideration the subject matter of this Memorandum and will apprise the Albanians by any possible means that such policy is hostile and contrary to the principles upheld by the Allies.

For the present the Greek Government think it advisable to abstain from publicizing the above information which would certainly cause indignation among the Greeks in Greece and abroad.

Washington, D. C.
May 21, 1943

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

HEL

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Istanbul

Dated June 4, 1943

FROM

Rec'd 8:51 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 7 - 1943
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

184R51, June 4, 9 p.m.

Department's 63, May 26, 7 p.m.

Yugoslav sources here believe "so-called Albanian patriots" carrying on campaign of terror against Greek people in Northern Epirus are the same bandit groups who according trustworthy informant from Skoplje recently attached Gostivar and Tetovo districts of Yugoslavia murdering and stealing from the inhabitants.

According to these reports these Albanian guerrillas are irresponsible groups who have no political significance and are taking advantage of the absence of law and order to pillage and steal similar to the Comitadji in Greek Thrace and some partisan groups in Yugoslavia. They have also raided the district of Stenchleak where they stole 5,000 gold napoleons and abducted nine people as hostages, seven of whom they killed. At about the same time

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FILED
JUN 14 1943

same time in the district of Zeliovce they kidnapped two women and demanded 2,000 gold napoleons as ransom from their husbands.

Local American sources are investigating in effort to obtain further information which would be forwarded to the Department as soon as it was received.

BERRY

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CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Greek Government's views toward Albania.

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768.75/12-644 FIS

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Memo
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Dec. 6, 1944 From State Department Near Eastern Affairs
To ~~xxxxx~~ Kohler

File No. 875.01/12-644

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

HM-943
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Caserta

Dated December 8, 1944

Rec'd. 11:14 p.m., 9th

Secretary of State

Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 11 1944
DIVISION OF WAR/EMERGENCY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DISTRIBUTION
DEC 14 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1643, December 8, midnight.

We are informed from OSS source that two Greek EAM officers arrived at Tirana (Dora) on December 8 on invitation of Hoxha.

KIRK

EMB

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Initial L.P.
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Confidential File
FILED
DEC 19 1944

CS/MAH 12-844

768.75/12-2644

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Informs concerning warning to Hoxha to keep his hands off the Greek business.

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel#1921
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Dec. 26, 1944 From / To ~~XXX~~ Advisory Council for Italy From Kirk at Caserta

File No. 868.00/12-2644

1—1540

768.75/12-2644 FIS Confidential File

Central File: Decimal File 768.75, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Greece And Albania, Aug. 22 1940 - Dec. 26, 1944. August 22, 1940 - December 26, 1944. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1940-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111396034%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 23 June 2025.